



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **MEMBERS OF CISNEROS ORGANIZATION SENTENCED IN ARIZONA**

PHOENIX - Eight members and associates of a racketeering enterprise known as the Cisneros Organization were sentenced in federal court on January 11 and 12, 2006. The defendants, Luis Cisneros, 35, of Chandler, Ariz.; Felipe Cisneros, 32, of Mesa, Ariz.; Paul Eppinger, 44, of Phoenix; Angel Rivera, 40, of Phoenix; Raymond Llamas, 39, of Guadalupe, Ariz.; Richard Trujillo, 31, of Tempe, Ariz.; Benjamin Austin, 33, of Pomona, Calif.; and Lorena Cisneros, 36, of Chandler, Ariz. were sentenced for various charges including racketeering, contract murder, narcotics manufacturing and distribution, vehicle theft and VIN-switching out of an investigation that spans over a decade.

The Cisneros Organization, headed by Luis Cisneros and his younger brother, Felipe, operated principally in Mesa and Chandler, Ariz. since at least 1993. The principal rackets in which the organization engaged were the theft and VIN-switching of motor vehicles and the manufacturing and distribution of large quantities of methamphetamine and cocaine. In addition, five of the defendants were sentenced for their part in conspiring to murder, and murdering, Jose Moreno, Sr., and his 16-year-old son, Jose, Jr., in Lovington, New Mexico, on January 12, 2000.

Luis Cisneros, Paul Eppinger, and Angel Rivera were each sentenced to Life Without Possibility of Release for their crimes, including the murders of Jose Moreno, Sr., and Jose Moreno, Jr.; Felipe Cisneros and Raymond Llamas each received sentences of 18 years for their crimes, including aiding in the conspiracy to murder the Morenos; Richard Trujillo was sentenced to 60 months in the Bureau of Prisons for his part in conspiring to possess with intent to distribute both methamphetamine and cocaine on behalf to the Cisneros Organization; Benjamin Austin received a 36 month sentence for his part in a methamphetamine conspiracy; and Lorena Cisneros, the wife of the Cisneros Organization leader, Luis Cisneros, was sentenced to 36 months for misleading investigators regarding Cisneros Organization crimes.

Paul K. Charlton, United States Attorney for the District of Arizona said "this is a very good result that was made possible through the tireless efforts of a dedicated and coordinated group of law enforcement officers, federal agents and prosecutors. As a result, three violent killers will spend their lives behind bars, and will never again be free to victimize citizens of Arizona or New Mexico. I commend all involved in this case for their hard work and a good result."

This case was an Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Force case denominated Crystal Shores II. The case was investigated by the police departments in Phoenix, Chandler, Mesa, and Tempe, Ariz., as well as Lovington, New Mexico, and the Arizona Department of Public Safety,

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the New Mexico State Police, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms and Explosives.

The prosecution is being handled by Greg Fouratt and Steve Yarbrough, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of New Mexico, Albuquerque and Glenn McCormick, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: CR-03-703-PHX-ROS  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-010 (Cisneros\_etal)

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